

App. No. 09/892,679  
Amendment Dated February 8, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of January 3, 2005

**Listing of claims:**

1. (Currently amended): A computer-implemented method for synchronization, comprising:
  - (a) a synchronization initiator sending a sync key to a synchronization partner;
  - (b) determining a desired synchronization state to synchronize from based on the sent sync key; and
  - (c) the partner determining if when the sent sync key is valid, and if when the sync key is valid:
    - (i) attempting to synchronize with the initiator from the desired synchronization state to a current state; and
    - (ii) determining if when the attempted synchronization was successful.
2. (Currently amended): The computer-implemented method of Claim 1, wherein determining the desired synchronization state to synchronize from based on the sent sync key, further comprises:
  - (a) determining a value of the sent sync key; and
  - (b) setting the desired synchronization state based on the value of the sent sync key.
3. (Currently amended): The computer-implemented method of Claim 2, wherein determining if when the sent sync key is valid further comprises determining if when a partner sync key exists related to the sent sync key; and if when so:
  - (a) determining a previously stored value of the partner sync key; and
  - (b) comparing the value of the partner sync key to the value of the sent sync key.
4. (Currently amended): The computer-implemented method of Claim 3, wherein setting the desired synchronization state based on the value of the sent sync key, further comprises:
  - (a) determining if when the desired synchronization state is an initial synchronization state based on the value of the sent sync key; and

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(b) determining if when the desired synchronization state is another valid synchronization state based on the value of the sent sync key.

5. (Currently amended): The computer-implemented method of Claim 3, wherein determining if when the attempted synchronization was successful, further comprises:

(a) the synchronization initiator determining if when the synchronization was successful, and if when so:

    updating the sync key on the initiator; and

(b) the synchronization partner determining if when the synchronization was successful, and if when so:

    updating the partner sync key.

6. (Currently amended): The computer-implemented method of Claim 5, wherein determining if when the desired synchronization state is another valid synchronization state based on the value of the sent sync key, further comprises, determining if when the value of the sent sync key corresponds to a stored synchronization checkpoint.

7. (Currently amended): The computer-implemented method of Claim 6, wherein the sent sync key is an integer and the partner sync key is an integer.

8. (Currently amended): A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for synchronization, comprising:

- (a) a client sending a sync key to a server;
- (b) determining a desired synchronization state from the sent sync key; and
- (c) attempting to synchronize with the client to the desired synchronization state.

9. (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium of Claim 8, further comprising:

- (a) determining if when the attempted synchronization was successful; and
- (b) updating the value of the sent sync key if when the synchronization was successful.

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10. (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium of Claim 10, wherein determining the desired synchronization state from the sent sync key, further comprises:

- (a) determining a value of the sent sync key;
- (b) locating a server sync key having a value;
- (c) comparing the value of the sent sync key to the value of the server sync key; and
- (d) setting the desired synchronization state based on the comparison.

11. (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium of Claim 10, wherein setting the desired synchronization state based on comparison, further comprises at least one of:

- (a) setting the desired synchronization state to an initial synchronization when the value of the sent sync key is zero; or-and
- (b) setting the desired synchronization state to a stored synchronization state of the server when the comparison determines that the value of the sent key relates to a stored synchronization state.

12. (Currently amended): The computer-readable medium of Claim 11, wherein determining if when the attempted synchronization was successful, further comprises:

- (a) the client determining if when the synchronization was successful, and if when so:  
updating the value of the sent sync key; and
- (b) the server determining if when the synchronization was successful, and if when so:  
updating the value of the server sync key.

13. (Original): The computer-readable medium of Claim 12, wherein updating the value of the sent sync key and updating the value of the server sync key, further comprises incrementing the value of the sync key stored on the client and the server sync key.

14. (Currently amended): A system for synchronizing data, comprising:

- (a) a processor and a computer-readable medium;
- (b) an operating environment stored on the computer-readable medium and executing on the processor;

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(e) a communication connection device operating under the control of the operating environment; and

(f) a synchronization device operating under the control of the operating environment and operative to perform actions, including:

- (i) receiving or sending a sync key to a synchronization partner;
- (ii) determining a desired synchronization state from the sync key;
- (iii) synchronizing with the client from the desired synchronization state to a current state; and
- (iv) determining if when the synchronization was successful.

15. (Currently amended): The system of Claim 8, further comprising updating the sync key if when the synchronization was successful.

16. (Currently amended): The system of Claim 15, wherein determining the desired synchronization state from the sync key, further comprises:

- (a) determining a value of the sync key;
- (b) setting the desired synchronization state based on the value of the sync key.

17. (Currently amended): The system of Claim 16, wherein determining if when the attempted synchronization was successful, further comprises determining if when the synchronized data was processed, and if when so updating the value of the sent sync key.

18. (New): A computer-implemented method for synchronization, comprising:  
a synchronization initiator sending a sync key to a synchronization partner, wherein the sync key indicates a synchronization state of the synchronization initiator;

the synchronization partner, receiving the sync key and determining a desired synchronization state of the synchronization initiator based on the sync key;

transmitting synchronization data based on the synchronization state to the synchronization partner; and

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updating the sync key to indicate a new synchronization state when the synchronization data is received by the synchronization initiator.

19. (New): The system of Claim 18, wherein determining a desired synchronization state of the synchronization initiator further includes comparing the sync key with a sync key associated with the synchronization partner.

20. (New): The system of Claim 19, further comprising:  
determining when a synchronization has failed by comparing the sync key with the sync key associated with the synchronization partner; and  
remedying the failed synchronization by transmitting synchronization data associated with the failed synchronization.